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UNCLAS ADANA 000141

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY, OCTOBER 15, 2004 PART II

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 15, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

HURRIYET/MILLIYET/TERCUMAN: Osman Ocalan, who split from the PKK and founded a party in Northern Iraq, said, "No Kurd could or should be so foolish as to engage in anti-American activities." Osman Ocalan said that the establishment of his party would be completed by the end of October. He said that the U.S. was changing dictatorships in the Middle East, and added that his party would establish contacts with U.S. authorities. Osman Ocalan said that nobody could deprive him and his supporters of the right to return to Turkey. He said Turkey was his country and it was his right to live there. Osman Ocalan appeared before the press for the first time with his ex-PKK-militant, Iranian wife Kewe Sucai.

SABAH: DEHAP National Chairman Tuncer Bakirhan announced that he would visit Europe from October 25 through November 05 with other Kurdish opinion makers, NGO representatives, and mayors, with the objective of lobbying in favor of Turkey's candidacy for accession to the EU.

SABAH: The Van Public Prosecutor requested permission from the Justice Ministry to prosecute Van Provincial Security Director Tacettin Kurt for negligence in the case of the former Van Deputy Mustafa Bayram and his son, Hecer Bayram. They had been accused of raiding a police station in Van on July 7 and assisting in the escape of family member Hamit Bayram, who had been allegedly involved in drug trafficking. The Van Criminal Peace Court Judge Ismail Gultekin, who had released Mustafa Bayram on bail, has been transferred to Trabzon.

EVRENSEL: In Tunceli, the Dayilar village headman Hakki Simsek said that he was kidnapped by Jandarma Intelligence Center (JITEM) elements on October 12. He claimed he was threatened with death and told to leave Tunceli by October 16. Simsek claimed that he was blindfolded and beaten in the testicles.

TURKIYE: In Mus, police found 2.350 kilograms of hashish when they searched S.C.'s house. S.C. was detained, and an investigation is being conducted.

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: Twenty-seven Human Shield Initiative (HSI) members were arrested in Hakkari by the Provincial Jandarma Command yesterday. They had gone to Hakkari from Adana, and set up tents at Kato Mountain to stop ongoing military operations and to investigate the alleged use of chemicals. In Van, a group made up of the Van HSI, the Migrants Association (GOCDER), DEHAP Youth Flank, and the Prisoners' and Inmates' Families Assistance Association (TUHAY-DER), announced that they were also getting ready to travel to a mountain in the area with the objective of stopping military operations.

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The Yezidi village of Magara in Idil, Sirnak province, that village guards had invaded in 1993, will be evacuated and turned over to the actual owners. Guards from Deskani village had been settled in Magara village and had been cultivating the land they had occupied. The Yezidi's attorney, Eren Keskin, documented with deeds from the land registrar that the village belonged to her clients. She petitioned the Interior Ministry and Idil Sub-Governor to remove the guards from the village, but soldiers prevented her from visiting the village on September 9. The Sirnak Governor's office instructed the Idil Sub-governor's office to remove the guards from the Magara village. Although the case concerning the village is still pending, the village will be turned over today to the former owners with a ceremony.

ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The Hakkari Public Prosecutor pressed charges against Hakkari HRA President Ismail Akbulut for telling reporters that chemical materials had been used in a military operation in the Bercelan pasture in Hakkari. The public prosecutor brought charges against Dogu Ihlas Haber Ajansi (DIHA-Eastern Ihlas News Agency) reporter Siddik Guler and the Birgun Newspaper reporter Hakan Tas, as well, for reporting the case in the press.

REID